

CHILDHOOD OF GREAT MEN

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Hazrat Yusuf

Hazrat Yusuf was among the famous Prophets of Allah. His father Hazrat Yaqub was also a Prophet. So were the grand father Hazrat Ishaq and great grand father, Hazrat Ibrahim. Hazrat Yaqub lived in Kan'aan (now Palestine), where Hazrat Yusuf was born.

The holy Qur'an describes the whole story of Hazrat Yusuf and called it *Ahsanul Qasas* ("the Best of Stories").

Yaqub had twelve sons. Among those Yusuf and Bin Yamin were real brothers and the rest were their step brothers. Yusuf was quite handsome, noble and wise. He spent most of his time in praying Allah along with his father.

One morning Yusuf went to his father and said: "My dear father, I had a wonderful dream last night. I saw eleven stars and the sun and the moon all are prostrating before me." Hazrat Yaqub listened the dream, and said: "Dear son, do not tell about this dream to your brothers. They may harm you. I feel Allah will select you for His mission and will make you His Prophet. He will shower His blessings on you as he did bless your grand father Ishaq and your great grand father Ibrahim."

After this dream Yaqub became more attached to Yusuf. He kept the son always with him and did not allow him to be away from him. This was not likened by the step brothers. They became quite jealous of Yusuf. They planned to kill him. These brothers used to go to the forest for grazing the sheep. One day by trying hard they convinced the father to allow them to take Yusuf along with them.

They took Yusuf to the forest. Then they pushed him into a dried well. They returned home and told their father

that the wolf carried away the young Yusuf. Hazrat Yaqub became very sad. He cried, "O Yusuf" and then became silent and prayed.

Right from his infancy Yusuf was so good with his brothers that he never got angry on the harsh behaviour of his brothers. He prayed Allah to rescue him from the well. Allah accepted his prayer. A caravan was passing by. Some men in the caravan were thirsty. Seeing the well they stopped and sent a person to fetch water from the well. When he drew up the bucket instead of water he saw a fair child sitting in it. He ran to inform others. They took the boy along with them to Egypt. On reaching the destination, they sold young Yusuf in the market.

Yes! They sold him! Selling children, women and men was a common practice in those days. The men, women and children were purchased in the open market. Thus they had to serve their masters as slaves. So the son of a Prophet has become a slave.

A very rich person had purchased Yusuf. He was serving the aristocrat master loyally. The emperor of Egypt had a strange dream. He called the priests, scholars and fortune tellers to interpret his dream. No one could explain the meaning of the dream. When Hazrat Yusuf heard of the dream, he not only interpreted the dream but also suggested means to counter the disastrous effects. The king was overwhelmed by the sagacious interpretation and remedial measures suggested by him. He appointed Yusuf as administrator and asked him to implement the suggestions proposed by him. Great responsibility had befallen on Yusuf. He managed the affairs of the State so well that Egypt turned into a welfare state. People were happy. The emperor was glad that such an able administrator he got for the country. Yusuf sent for his parents and his brothers from Kana'an. All of them bowed before Yusuf to pay respects. The son addressed the father. "O, my father, this is the

interpretation of my childhood dream. You and my mother are the sun and the moon and my brothers are the eleven stars. Just see, father, Allah has turned my dream into reality. This is a great blessing. The devil had played its part and split, but Allah saved and blessed me."



Lesson - 2

Hazrat Moosa

The childhood of Hazrat Moosa was very interesting. The reference to this famous Prophet of Allah is found at several places in the Glorious Qur'an.

The most interesting point about his life is that he was born in a Muslim family but he was brought up in the royal surroundings of a king who was a disbeliever.

Fir'aun (Pharaoh) was the king during the days of Moosa. He designated himself as god. A very large number of citizens living in the country under his rule were the descendents of a great Prophet. They were called *Bani Israel*, means the children of Israel. Hazrat Yaqub was the Prophet of Allah. He was called Israel also. His children were named as Bani Israel. One of the beloved sons of Hazrat Yaqub was Hazrat Yusuf who was also a great Prophet. He had invited his parents and brothers to Egypt. All of them got settled in a township specially built for them. After the demise of Hazrat Yusuf, Egyptians turned hostile towards Bani Israel and lost no occasion to ill-treat and torture them.

Fir'aun was quite jealous of Bani Israel. He had a fear that they might revolt against him and become ruler of Egypt. He tortured them continuously and killed them even for minor reasons. He had passed orders that all new-borns male in the families of Bani Israel should be killed. However the female child may be allowed to grow up to serve as maids in his palace. As a result the number of Bani Israel was reducing. Bani Israel were Muslims. Although their faith had weakened, still they were not ready to accept *Fir'aun* as god.

Meanwhile a surprising event took place. Moosa was born in a family of Bani Israel. The mother was a pious lady.

She thought if the king would come to know of this birth, her son would be killed. So she took a box, placed the baby in it, closed the lid and left it in the River Nile. She instructed her daughter to walk along the bank of the river and see where the box was drifted. The sister followed the instructions.

The river passed by the side of the palace of Pharaoh. The wife of Pharaoh was enjoying the flow of river from the balcony of the palace. When she saw the box, she ordered its recovery. The box was taken to her. She opened it and a smiling baby welcomed her!

The wife of Pharaoh was childless. She got a baby. She was overjoyed. When Pharaoh saw the baby, he suspected. He wanted to kill the child. But the wife did not allow. She persuaded him to refrain from executing the baby.

The baby needed a wet-nurse. The best of the nurses of Egypt assembled in the palace. Everyone of them tried to suckle the baby, but the baby would not accept the milk from any woman. Everyone was worried. The sister joined the crowd. She was standing in a corner. Seeing the problem she came forward and suggested : "I know a wet-nurse. If you please agree, I shall call her and hope the child will drink her milk."

"Go, get her here," it was ordained.

The sister ran to her mother, gave all details and then took the mother to the palace. The child readily accepted the milk and drank it. The mother alone was appointed to feed the baby.

How strange are the ways of Allah! Moosa grew up amidst the deadly enemies. When he grew up, Allah choose him as His Messenger and assigned the duty of advising Egyptians to worship one God Allah. Pharaoh became angry. Then Allah drowned Pharaoh and his large army in the River Nile. And thus Bani Israel was liberated from their enemy !!

Lesson - 3

Hazrat Sulaiman

Hazrat Sulaiman was the Prophet of Allah. His father Hazrat Dawood (Daud) was also a Prophet. Both the father and the son were Prophets as well as ruler of a vast territory. Hazrat Sulaiman was specially favoured with an exclusively novel gift of Allah. He could talk with the animals. Allah had awarded him another power by which he could control the Jinns and the Air.

In his childhood, his mother inspired him to practice good habits through repeated advice. She insisted to offer prayer regularly. Our beloved Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) has said : "The mother of Sulaiman had advised him that he should not sleep the whole of night. Spending most of the night in sleep makes one feel short of the good deeds on the Day of Resurrection."

Sulaiman obeyed his mother's advice and practiced accordingly. Allah had given him wisdom and reasoning capacity. Many incidents of his childhood reflect his sagacity.

1. Once a case was brought to the court of Daud . Sulaiman was also present there. He was 11 years old then. A person charged the other person that the sheep owned by the other person have grazed the whole crop at his field causing heavy loss. The loss was almost equivalent to the value of the sheep. He wanted his loss to be compensated. Hazrat Daud decided that the sheep owner should give away the sheep to the owner of the field.

Hazrat Sulaiman who was witnessing the whole activity came forward and said : "O father, your judgement is quite right. The loss caused to the owner of the field must be

compensated. But in my humble opinion, an alternative verdict may be passed which might be more practical and advantageous."

Hazrat Daud asked : "What is it?" Sulaiman replied : "The flock of sheep may be handed over to the owner of the field. He can milk them and utilise the benefits therefrom. The owner of the sheep should plough the field and raise the crop. When the crop is ready, let the field be handed over along with the crop to its legal owner and the sheep taken back."

Hazrat Daud approved of the verdict and passed the same order.

2. Another verdict which Sulaiman suggested is more expressive of his maturity, discretion and wisdom. The case presented in the court of Hazrat Daud was very interesting and tough. Two mothers were travelling together. Each carried a baby with her. They camped at the same place at the night. The baby of the elderly women was carried away by wolf. When the day dawned, she snatched the baby of the younger lady and claimed that the baby was hers. A quarrel started between them. Finally they appeared before Daud . The elderly women presented her case in such a cunning way that Daud ordered the baby to be given to her alone. The younger women came out of the court crying. On the way Sulaiman met her and asked why she was crying so bitterly. She narrated the whole happening. Sulaiman called both women and ordered to chop the baby into halves and hand over one piece to each.

Hearing this order, the younger women cried more bitterly and pleaded : "Sir, please do not cut the baby. Let the baby be with the other women. Even if my baby does not remain with me, he will be alive. That is sufficient for me."

When Sulaiman heard this, he pronounced that this

child belonged to younger lady. He went to his father and told him the truth. Daud agreed with Sulaiman's judgement. He punished the elderly lady and the younger got her baby back.



Prophet Muhammed (pbuh)

During the childhood of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh), a boy came to him and told: "Do you know, how the people enjoy in the town whole night? Some of them dance and sing. Some of them listen the songs, and see the dance. Some of them tell stories and some listen to them. And there are many more amusing and entertaining games in which people indulge."

The whole description was so exciting that the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) desired to have a glimpse of all. He started to see the games one night. But Allah did not like it. Allah wanted that even in his childhood, he should keep away from such amusements and maintain his piety and chastity. On the way he stayed at a place for some work and slept the whole night there itself.

With the same intention he started another day. On the way he came across the residence of his paternal aunt. She saw him and called him in. There also he felt sleepy and slept for entire night. He could not thus indulge into such evils.

Beloved Prophet (pbuh) was very modest from childhood. Once a wall of Ka'aba collapsed. The Makkans joined together to raise it. Men, old and young and even children were involved in the construction. Some persons were engaged in getting stones from the nearby mountain, some in crushing them, some in raising the wall and children helped in getting stones from the mountain. The Prophet (pbuh) was eight years old and was working with other boys.

The Prophet (pbuh) would go to the mountain, picked up big stones, carried them on the shoulders and placed

them near Ka'aba. He would run again to get a second stone. As the process was repeated a number of times, his shoulders got injured.

Along with the Prophet, his uncle Hazrat Abbas was also engaged. He was a little older to Prophet Muhammed (pbuh). He liked his nephew very much. When he saw the wounded shoulders of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh), he came to him and removed the lower cloth, folded and kept it on his shoulders. Uncle wanted that the stone must not hurt him.

But the young nephew was so modest that he became unconscious. People ran to him and tried to revive him. As he was regaining consciousness he uttered : "My loin cloth, my loin cloth." People realised and tied the lower cloth around his waist. Then only he could join the construction work.



Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique

Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique was a very affectionate companion of beloved Prophet (pbuh). He liked and regarded the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) more than his own life. The Prophet (pbuh) also liked him most. Among the companions he occupied the most elevated and closest place. After the Prophet (pbuh) Muslims unanimously selected him as their Caliph. He administered and ruled the newly formed Islamic State efficiently and ably.

One and the only incident of his childhood recorded authentically indicates the strength of his personality. In his own words, the narration is described here.

“When I was a child, my father Abu Qahafa took me inside a room. Idols adorned the room. Pointing to an idol he ordered : “This is your god. Prostrate before him.” So saying he left me. I went to the idol and said : “I am naked. Cloth me.” It did not answer. I repeated : “I am hungry, feed me.” There was no reply. I took a stone and said : “I am hitting you. If you are god, save yourself.” Still there was silence. I threw a stone at it and the idol dropped down flat.”



Lesson - 6

Hazrat Ali

Hazrat Ali was the cousin and son-in-law of the beloved Prophet Muhammed (pbuh). He was brave and wise from the childhood. He was still in his teens; when Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) was chosen by Allah. When the Prophet delivered the message of Allah to others and invited them to the way of Allah, the noble persons who accepted Islam were only a few. Among them was a 12 years old boy. He was none other than Ali.

After a few days of attaining Prophethood, the Prophet (pbuh) asked Ali to arrange a lunch. Ali immediately responded and made necessary arrangements. All the members of the Prophet's family were present including uncle Abu Talib, Abbas, Hamza and others.

When the lunch was over, the Prophet delivered a speech. He said : "I have brought with me a message for you which assures your welfare in this world and also in Hereafter. Who is going to support me in my task?"

There was no response from the audience. Everyone was silent. At that time Hazrat Ali was twelve years of age. He was not tall. His limbs were not strong. He was lean and lanky. His eyes were also acheing. But even then he was quite brave, courageous and spirited. He could not cancel his inspiration and fervour. Noted personalities were present. Amidst them he got up and assured the Prophet.

"It is true I am suffering now from sore eyes. It is also true that my legs are thin and it is a fact that I am still a child. Even then O Prophet of Allah, I will support and walk along with you always."

These words of Ali fell like a bombshell on the ears of those who were present there. They looked at each other

as if saying "Do you understand what this child is saying? Has he understood what Muhammed (pbuh) stated?"

But in the later stage everybody saw that this young boy staked entire life for the cause of Islam.



Hazrat Zaid Bin Haris

Disasters upset man. However it has been observed that such misfortunes elevate one to high status for instance. Hazrat Yusuf was pushed down into the well by his brothers. They took it as the end of their step brother. But look what happened! Allah helped him to come out of the well unhurt, made him reach Egypt where he was first sold as slave but later he became the administrator of Egypt. He attained unassailable powers to administer.

Zaid also came up in life under similar conditions. The wisdom behind Allah's decisions is incomprehensible. Zaid was travelling with his mother to his grand father's place. He was hardly eight years old. Dacoits attacked their caravan on the way and snatched Zaid from the mother. They sold him in the market as a slave.

Imagine what a calamity it was for the mother and the father and even for Zaid! But this disaster was blessing in disguise and turned out to be a source of achieving rare distinctions.

Zaid was purchased by Hakeem Bin Hazzam, the nephew of Hazrat Khadija. The latter was the wife of our beloved Prophet (pbuh). When the nephew visited Makkah, he handed over Zaid to his aunt, who in turn presented him to her husband, Prophet Mohammed (pbuh). What else could be the honour than being in service of the great Prophet (pbuh). Zaid used to pride for the honour and was not ready to come out of the bondage even at a high cost.

Zaid was happy in the service of the Prophet (pbuh). But his parents were very sad of his separation. They were shedding tears and were engaged in searching the son everywhere. After quite a long search they learnt that their

son lives with Hazrat Muhammed (pbuh) at Makkah.

Zaid's father Haris reached Makkah along with his brother Ka'ab and met the Prophet (pbuh). They addressed the Prophet : "O noble son of Abdullah! O noble son of Abdul Muttalib! O noble son of the great Quraish tribe! You all belong to Ka'aba. You support those in trouble. You feed the prisoners. We have come to you with a request. Please free our boy. We are ready to offer any amount you demand."

The holy Prophet (pbuh) enquired : "Which boy are you referring to?" They replied : "About Zaid."

When the Prophet (pbuh) heard the name of Zaid, he kept quiet for some time. It was a fact that he had more affection towards Zaid. He was treating him as his own son.

Zaid too loved Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) and obediently learnt from him all that which he would never learn from others. When Haris asked for his son, Prophet's first reaction was of pain. He did not like to miss Zaid. He addressed Haris : "Don't you accept any other thing instead of him?" Haris said : "No!"

The Prophet (pbuh) suggested : "All right ! Call Zaid. If he wants to go along with you, you take him without any reservation. However by Allah, if someone doesn't want to separate from me, I too will not separate him."

Haris and his brother Ka'ab readily agreed to the proposal. They thought that their son might be undergoing hardship as a slave and would jump at the very mention of being free once again. They hardly knew that Zaid was under the gentle care of that personality whose mission was to free the slaves.

Zaid was called. The Prophet (pbuh) asked him : "Do you recognise these two gentlemen?" "Yes, I do", replied Zaid. "This is my father Haris and that is my uncle Ka'ab".

The Prophet said : "You know me too. You have every

right either to go to your house or choose to live with me.”

Hazrat Zaid said : “I am not the one who will leave you. You are my father and you are my mother!”

Having heard this the father and the uncle were dumb struck. They were shocked. They said : “Dear son, it is really saddening that you are preferring slavery to freedom. You are very dear to your father, mother, uncle and the whole family and you are forsaking them all. You can go to your native town but you do not want to!”

Zaid exhorted : “Yes, I have discovered such wonderful virtues in Prophet (pbuh) that I can give up everything but never like to leave him.”

On hearing this plea, the Prophet (pbuh) led Zaid by hand and proceeded towards Ka’aba. The father and the uncle followed them with questioning looks. On reaching Ka’aba, the Prophet (pbuh) declared in loud tone : “Hear Men, Be witness to this that Zaid is my son from today. I am his heir and he is mine.”

When father and uncle heard this proclamation, they were gladdened. Both realised that the comfort, love and affection he was getting here would not be available elsewhere. Both returned to Yamen pleased and satisfied. On reaching home they comforted all others saying : “Zaid is leading a very comfortable life and he is destined to be a great man.”

Zaid became a great man. The Prophet (pbuh) got his niece marry to Zaid. In many of the military expeditions the Prophet (pbuh) made him General. He lead an expedition in which close companions like Hazrat Abu Bakr, Hazrat Omar and Hazrat Abu Ubaida were under him. What else could a person desire? Allah was pleased with him, Prophet was happy and all Muslims proud of him. He earned the privilege and honour of being a martyr too!



Lesson - 8

Hazrat Zubair

Hazrat Zubair was one of those ten companions for whom the Prophet (pbuh) had assured a place in the paradise. His childhood was quite an interesting phase of his life. Zubair had lost his father when he was still a child. His mother, Safia, reared him up. Safia was sister of Hazrat Hamza and the aunt of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh). She was a brave lady and wanted her son also to be brave, fearless and wise. She was a task master too and made her son take up performing herculian tasks. She would not allow him to waste time. On lookers would comment : "Oh, do you intend killing the boy?" She would reply : "I am only trying to make him sagacious, dauntless and courageous."

The rigorous training programme resulted in making Zubair quite brave and fearless right from his childhood. In fact before he reached adulthood he had an encounter with a wrestler. In the very first round, he threw down the wrestler who got his hand fractured. People took the wrestler to Zubair's mother and complained. But the mother only asked: "Tell me honestly how did you find my son, whether brave or coward?"

Hazrat Zubair had embraced Islam in his youth. He loved the Prophet very much. Once the non-believers detained the Prophet (pbuh). When the news reached Hazrat Zubair, he was furious. Holding a sword in his hand he started searching for the Prophet. He met the Prophet (pbuh) at his house. Seeing him in anger with a shining sword in hand, the Prophet (pbuh) enquired : "Why are you so furious?" He replied : "I had heard that the non-believers are holding you in captivity. I was on my mission to free you."

This gesture of courage and love of Zubair in his tender age earned him great appreciation and applause from the great Prophet (pbuh). It is also recorded that the first person who had drawn the sword for supporting the great Prophet (pbuh) was none other than the young Zubair.



Lesson - 9

Hazrat Fatima

Hazrat Fatima was the most dear daughter of our beloved Prophet (pbuh). She is a lady of high rank among the revered women of Islam. She is also one of the five women who were regarded as superior to all women in the world by the great Prophet (pbuh).

From the cradle to the grave Fatima's life was a living example of Islam. Even her childhood was an epitome of nobility and excellence. She respected her father and mother devotedly. She never raised her voice in front of them. She always addressed them in low voice. She never sat with her back in front of them. She was ever ready to attend on them and to carry out assigned responsibilities fully. Even as a child she was noted for her outstanding courage and bravery. An incident of her childhood is well known to all.

The Prophet (pbuh) had to encounter very hard times during the initial years of his mission. The Makkans had turned quite hostile to the noble Prophet (pbuh). They did not approve of the propagation of Islam. They had come out in open to counter all activities of the great Prophet (pbuh).

During such hostile atmosphere, once, the great Prophet (pbuh) was offering prayer at Ka'aba. The non-believers observed it. They thought of teasing the Prophet. They brought the entrails of a camel and placed it over the neck of the Prophet (pbuh). The Prophet (pbuh) could not move. He was being crushed under the heavy weight. Non-believers were standing around and making fun of him. Bibi Fatima, learnt about this incident. She was not more than five or six years old at that time. Still as soon as she heard about the predicament, she rushed to Ka'aba. She

arrived at the scene, removed the entrails and took the non-believers to task. They were stunned at the heroic deed of the tiny girl.



Lesson - 10

Hazrat Abdullah Bin Omar

Hazrat Abdullah Bin Omar was quite young during the life time of the noble Prophet (pbuh). In spite of his young age he is included among great companions of the Prophet (pbuh). Later he became a well known narrator of Hadith. It is said that Abdullah Bin Omar was a perfect follower of Hadith. He was considered to be the most distinguished personality of his times. According to many people he was the best choice for Caliph immediately after Hazrat Omar. But Hazrat Omar was not in favour. He advised that his son should not be made to bear the heavy responsibility of Caliph.

From the childhood he desired to sacrifice his life for the sake of the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh). The Battle of Badr was the first encounter between the Muslims and the non-believers. Abdullah Bin Omar was just 13 years old at that time. Laced with weapons, he appeared before the Prophet (pbuh) pleading that he would like to fight along with the Prophet (pbuh). The Prophet (pbuh) was much pleased with this young soldier and persuaded him to return. He was 14 years old when the battle of Uhad took place. Again the Prophet (pbuh) had to send him back convincing him that he was too young to take part in the battle. However he was permitted to participate actively in the war of Trench. He was 15 years old, then.

He was brave as well as learned from his childhood. He would reach the depth of the matter immediately. Once he was present in an assembly of the Prophet (pbuh) and his companions. The Prophet asked the companions: "Which tree is ever-green like a Muslim? Its leaves are never shed

and it bears fruit all the time?”

This was a difficult question. All the companions including Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Omar were silent. Abdullah Bin Omar knew the answer. He decided many a times to stand up and tell the answer but in the presence of the elders he did not dare to say. When elders are silent, it is better for the youngsters to follow them.

On reaching home, he went to his father and said : “O father, I had solved the question. The Prophet (pbuh) was referring to the Dates tree, but I could not speak in respect to the elders present there.”

Hazrat Omar replied : “My son, you should have come out with the solution. If you had done so, I would have liked it more against your great achievements.



Hazrat Abdullah Bin Abbas

Hazrat Abdullah Bin Abbas was the cousin of the holy Prophet (pbuh). He was the son of the Prophet's uncle Hazrat Abbas . When he was born, the father brought the baby to the holy Prophet (pbuh) who saw the baby and prayed for him.

Hazrat Abdullah Bin Abbas was a very noble, cute and intelligent child. He was eager to know more and more about all things around him. Once he went to the assembly of the great Prophet (pbuh). He returned home running and informed his father (Hazrat Abbas) : "Today I saw a person sitting next to the holy Prophet (pbuh) whom I have not seen so far. It would have been better if I would know who he was?" At this Abbas thought of Jibrail, the angel who used to deliver the divine message to the holy Prophet (pbuh). Later the uncle described the talk he had with his youngest son to Muhammed (pbuh). The Prophet (pbuh) called Abdullah and made him to sit in his lap and patted on the head and thus prayed: "Oh Allah, shower special blessings on this child and spread the light of knowledge through him!"

The Prophet (pbuh) liked Abdullah Bin Abbas very much. The boy too had developed an intimacy with the Prophet (pbuh) and was ever ready to attend to minor tasks. Once the Prophet (pbuh) happened to pass by the place where Abdullah was playing. On seeing the Prophet (pbuh) he hid himself and began to smile. The Prophet (pbuh) saw, caught him, patted on the head and asked him to go and fetch Hazrat Mu'awiah, who used to scribe for the Prophet. Abdullah ran to Hazrat Mu'awiah and said : "Get up, Sir, the holy Prophet (pbuh) has called you. There is some special work for you."

Hazrat Abdullah Bin Abbas was quite inquisitive to know how the Prophet (pbuh) spends his time in the house. For this there was no hinderance for him because he was cousin to the Prophet (pbuh), as well as the cousin to Ummul Momineen Hazrat Maimoona, wife of Prophet (pbuh). He was loved by both Prophet and Hazrat Maimoona. So he could visit the house of Prophet frequently and sometimes slept there in the night.

On one such night Hazrat Abdullah was awake when the Prophet (pbuh) got up for performing ablution (*wuzu*). The Prophet (pbuh) looked for water. Abdullah understood that Prophet was in search of water. He got up unnoticed, fetched water for ablution, and slept silently. After the ablution, the Prophet enquired : "Who brought water for the ablution?" Hazrat Maimoona told him that it was Abdullah who got water. The Prophet (pbuh) was much pleased and thus prayed : "O Allah, Bestow on this child the understanding of the religion, high intellect and power of knowledge that he easily understand the deep meaning."

On another night, the Prophet (pbuh) got up after midnight, performed ablution and stood for prayer. Hazrat Abdullah was asleep. He too got up, performed ablution and stood to the left of the Prophet (pbuh). The Prophet (pbuh) took him to his right side holding his head. On another occasion when he stood behind, the Prophet (pbuh) took him to his side. This was an embarrassing situation for the young boy to stand beside the Prophet. After prayer the Prophet enquired about his condition. He pleaded : "O Messenger of Allah how any one could stand by your side! You are the Prophet of Allah." The Prophet appreciated his respect and wisdom and blessed him profoundly.

Hazrat Abdullah Bin Abbas had developed such intimacy with the Prophet (pbuh) that he tried to be always with him. Even in the assemblies of the companions, Prophet (pbuh) used to accommodate Abdullah.

In one such assembly Abdullah was seated to the right of the Prophet (pbuh). Milk was brought by someone to the Prophet (pbuh). The Prophet took a few sips from the full cup and left the remaining to be shared. The common practice at such occasions was to distribute the remaining part among the gathering starting from the right side. The Prophet (pbuh) looked to his right side and found Abdullah sitting next to him. He addressed him: "My boy, according to the practice, it is your turn. But if you permit, I will offer the cup to elders."

As the Prophet (pbuh) was telling this, Abdullah Bin Abbas had fixed his eyes on the very spot from where the Prophet (pbuh) had sipped the milk. He replied: "O Prophet, I am ready to sacrifice anything but would never forsake the honour of touching the place with my lips at the very spot which has been touched by your lips."

The Prophet (pbuh) smiled and handed over the cup to him. He sipped milk twice from the very spot from where the beloved Prophet (pbuh) had sipped the milk and then extended the cup to others.

This is how the early childhood years of Hazrat Abdullah Bin Abbas were spent. Obviously the company of the holy Prophet (pbuh) had a deep impact on his upcoming. In addition to this, the supplications of the holy Prophet (pbuh) on various occasions had their own effect. This was in itself great honour and good fortune. People used to call him 'wise' and would enquire about the practices of Prophet from him.

When Abdullah was 13 years old Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) left this world. Even at that age, Hazrat Omar invited him for assemblies and to join in the discourses.

In one such assembly, while many great scholars and Hazrat Abdullah Bin Abbas were present, Hazrat Omar recited surah *Al-Nasr* and desired the scholars to give a commentry of this chapter. All great scholars offered

explanation according to their knowledge. When the matter was referred to Hazrat Abdullah Bin Abbas, he commented that in this chapter, the demise of the Prophet (pbuh) has been predicted. Hazrat Omar was highly pleased, patted him and said : "I also think so."

Sometimes people would object seeing Abdullah sitting in company of elders. Hazrat Omar would silence such critics by saying that you people are aware of Abdullah's prudence, wisdom and intellect.

Obviously a man blessed by Allah would certainly become a great personality. Hazrat Abdullah Bin Masood a great scholar of that time had recognised his command over Qur'anic interpretation, Hadith, Fiqh, Literature, Poetry and other subjects.

There are many instances which prove that he became a great scholar in his later days.

Once he was deputed to the court of Jarjeer Shah, a monarch in the African continent, for solving a disputed matter. The king was all smile seeing a young lad as the representative of the Caliph. But when this young man got up and argued the case, the King bit his lips and commented: "I think you are the most esteemed scholar in the whole of Arabia."



Lesson - 12

Hasan and Hussain

Imam Hasan and Imam Hussain were the grandsons of beloved Prophet Muhammed (pbuh). Hazrat Ali was their father and Bibi Fatima was their mother. The brothers were endowed with great understanding and high intellect. They acted very wisely and whenever they had to correct even the elderly persons, they adopted inventive methods. Here is one such interesting incident.

Imam Hasan and Imam Hussain had good knowledge of how to perform Salath (prayer) and other religious matters. Once they observed a person performing ablution in a wrong way. They put their heads together and drew a very innovative scheme.

They approached the person and said : "Uncle, we are brothers. We will perform ablution in front of you. Please observe and tell us who, among ourselves, perform the ablution in the best manner."

So saying they both sat to perform the ablution. When the person saw the way the two brothers performed the ablution, he realised his mistake and understood that these two children have taught him the accurate way of ablution very intelligently. He was much pleased with them and announced that this is the result of personal and direct teaching and training by such masters as the Prophet (pbuh), Hazrat Ali and Bibi Fatima.

Hasan and Hussain were after all children. Once they quarrelled on some matter, approached the mother with complaints against each other. Hazrat Fatima said : "I am not concerned with who beat whom, I only know that Allah will be displeased because He does not like quarrelling with one another."

The brothers were sorry for their action. They pleaded: "Dear Mummy, please forgive us, we will never quarrel again."

Hazrat Fatima suggested: "Seek forgiveness from your Lord, Allah, perform ablution and offer prayer (namaz) and seek His pardon and blessings."

Both prayed and sought forgiveness from Allah.

How good were both the brothers and how noble was their mother Bibi Fatima. Let Allah be pleased with them.



Lesson - 13

Hazrat Anas

Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) had migrated from Makkah. After a few days a lady approached the Prophet and pleaded:

“O Messenger of God, Here is my son. I love him dearly. I am a Muslim and I want that my son should turn into a good and true Muslim. I have brought him to you so that he learns all that you want to propagate.”

The Prophet of Allah readily consented to keep the boy with him. The boy was quite intelligent. He noticed keenly the way the Prophet (pbuh) talked, listened, acted and moved. He attended to the Prophet's needs and orders devotedly and performed the assigned duties sincerely. Soon he became famous for being “obedient” to the Prophet (pbuh). In good humour the Prophet (pbuh) used to refer him as “O the one with two ears.” This nickname was quite fit as the boy was always at the beck and call of the Prophet (pbuh) and very obedient. Whoever heard of this nickname, enjoyed it because everyone has two ears but will they be as attentive as the boy who attended on the Prophet? This lucky boy turned out to be a great scholar in his later life.

He is now referred with respect as Hazrat Anas, the one with whom Allah is pleased.

Once the Prophet (pbuh) sent him for some work. He was much delayed there. When the mother learnt about this delay, she enquired :

“Why did you take so much time? What was the job?”

Hazrat Anas was in his teens but he replied so wisely that the mother could not hold her appreciation. He said :

“By God! Mother, it's a secret of the beloved Prophet (pbuh). I will never tell it to anybody,

even to you, my mother.”

She retorted :

“Do not reveal it even to me, my son. It is a secret of the Prophet (pbuh).”

Hazrat Anas grew up to be a great person. Let Allah be pleased with him.



Hazrat Abdullah Bin Zubair

Abdullah Bin Zubair was the youngest companion of the beloved Prophet of Allah. He was the son of an elderly companion Hazrat Zubair. Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique was his grand father. Ummul Momineen (mother of Muslims) Hazrat Ayesha was his aunt. His mother, Asma, was the elder daughter of Abu Bakr Siddique. He belonged to the family of Hamza, the uncle, and Safia the peternal aunt of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh). Following three attributes of the family of Abdullah Bin Zubair were quite outstanding.

- 1) They did not fear any one except Allah.
- 2) They were ever ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of Allah and Prophet (pbuh).
- 3) They never hesitated speaking the truth.

Abdullah Bin Zubair also was marked for these three characteristics. He was the most pious, most courageous and most articulate orator (speaker) of his times. Once a brave man of those days Mohlib was asked about most brave persons of the time. He named three persons excluding Abdullah's name. People asked about Abdullah Bin Zubair. Muhlib retorted: "You fool, I am speaking of men and you are asking about superman?"

This remark of Mohlib indicates that he considered Abdullah most brave among all.

Hazrat Abdullah Bin Zubair was born in Madinah. All celebrated his birth. The beloved Prophet (pbuh) chewed a date and placed it in the mouth of the baby. This was the greatest gift given by Prophet (pbuh) to the baby.

Once he was playing with other children. A person came there and shouted at them. Children were scared and ran helter and skelter. But Hazrat Zubair returned and called

the children back declaring : "Friends, don't be afraid, choose me your leader and attack him."

The children joined together under the leadership of Abdullah and attacked the person and made him to flee.

At another occasion Abdullah Bin Zubair was busy in play with other children. Hazrat Omar Farooq happened to come along that way. The children regarded him as great and brave therefore when they saw him they all ran away. But Abdullah Bin Zubair did not stir and stood there itself. Hazrat Omar approached him and asked: "Why did you not run?" Pat came the reply : "Why should I? I have not committed any mistake and the road is so wide that you could walk past us."

Hazrat Omar smiled at this reply and walked away.

Abdullah Bin Zubair was just four or five years old when the non-believers gathered together and with a strength of about ten thousand invaded Madinah. However they were made to retreat under the command of the Prophet (pbuh). When the fighting was on, Abdullah Bin Zubair would climb a nearby hill along with a friend and witnessed the battle scene commenting between them on the progress of the war.

Hazrat Zubair, Abdullah's father was so impressed by the boldness of his son at the age of seven that he presented him before the Prophet (pbuh). Prophet (pbuh) appreciated and prayed for him. Abdullah Bin Zubair used to visit Prophet (pbuh) frequently. After Prophet's demise Abdullah Bin Zubair imbibed religious knowledge from Hazrat Ayesha also. That is why he could practice day to day life exactly in the same manner as did the Prophet (pbuh). He thus became known for his (piousness) piety.

Abdullah Bin Abbas, a great scholar, used to say : "O People! If you want to observe the way the great Prophet performed the prayer, then imitate Abdullah Bin Zubair."

Hazrat Omer Bin Dinar commented : "I have not seen

anybody other than Abdullah Bin Zubair praying so devotedly and correctly." Hazrat Abdullah Bin Omar referred him as "the best worshipper, best fasting person and the best relative." May Allah bless him.



Lesson - 15

Caliph Omar Bin Abdul Azeez

The name of Hazrat Omar Bin Abdul Azeez glitters among the best Caliphs of the Muslims. He was such an outstanding Caliph that many persons regarded him as one of the *Khalifa-e-Rashid* (the righteous Caliph). This term stands for such Caliphs who ruled and led their lives exactly in accordance with the codes, orders and rules of Allah and His Messenger (pbuh). Generally the first four Caliphs namely Abu Bakr Siddique, Omar Farooq, Usman Ghani and Ali Murtaza are regarded as *Khulfa-e-Rashideen*. But even Omar Bin Abdul Azeez ruled with such adherence to the pious path and principles of Allah and His Messenger (pbuh) that he was considered as the fifth *Khalifa-e-Rashid* (righteous Caliph). His period was a shining example of Islamic rule. One incident of his childhood is both interesting and instructive.

His father Abdul Azeez Bin Marwan was the governor of Egypt. He sent his son to Madinah for education. At Madinah he was placed under the charge of the famous scholar Hazrat Saleh Bin Kaisan. He resided with his maternal uncle Hazrat Abdullah Bin Omar. Hazrat Saleh Bin Kaisan taught him with utmost devotion and responsibility. This is evident from an incident. Once Omar Bin Abdul Azeez delayed in attending the prayer. The teacher asked the reason for the delay. The student replied: "I was dressing the hair." Hazrat Saleh was furious: "So you prefer combing to Namaz?" Hazrat Saleh immediately complained to his father (the governor of Egypt) who sent a person to shave his head.

This is the way Omar Bin Abdul Azeez was brought up. Perhaps this was the reason for his rising up to the status of as *Khalifa-e-Rashid* (righteous Caliph). May Allah bless him.

Lesson - 16

Allama Ibn Taimiyya

Once an eminent scholar of Halab came to Damascus. He came to know about an intelligent child named Ahmed Ibn Taimiyya who was famous for his strong memory. The scholar wanted to meet the boy and test him. He sat in the shop of a tailor and wait for the students to pass. The tailor assured him that the boy would pass this road without fail. After sometime a group of students appeared on the road. The tailor said : "Sir, the boy who is carrying the large slate is Ibn Taimiyya."

Shaikh called the boy. Ibn Taimiyya approached him. The scholar ordered him : "Wipe off what is written on the slate." When the slate was clean, he dictated thirteen Ahadith and asked the boy to go through them. The boy read them once with rapt attention and concentration. The scholar took away the slate from the boy and asked him to repeat the Ahadith. The boy repeated them in toto. Shaikh said : "Very good, now wipe them all." Then he wrote the references and documentations and asked the boy to read once. The boy went through them once intently and then recited them back without any hesitation.

The learned Shaikh commanded : "If this boy survives, one day, he will become a great person. Becuse harldy do we find such luminies these days."

Ibn Taimiyya grew up to attain the status of the greatest scholar of his times. His was an illustrious career. He strived to wipe off many evils from the society. He confronted with the enemies of Islam. Allama Ibn Taimiyya was not afraid of anyone except Allah. He reprimanded even ruler of the times and used to advise them. He wrote many volumes which are very useful for the scholars and students both.

Allama Ibn Jozi

Allama Ibn Jozi was born in 508 A.H. some 917 years ago from now. His parents were from Baghdad, where a host of eminent scholars lived. His mother admitted him in the school of famous scholar Ibn Nasir. Ibn Jozi himself had given an account of his childhood to his son. He wrote:

"I remember very well that when I was six years old, I started my schooling. I have not played with other children nor laughed loudly on my way to school. In my seventh year I used to attend discourses in Hadith by great scholars of the times at the field attached to Jama Masjid. I could remember what ever they discuss. I used to note down the whole lesson. Boys of my age used to play on the banks of River Dajla or went to witness the magic show but I engaged myself with books. I was the first to reach my teachers. If I got late some day, I used to run fast and reached school breathless. My days and nights were thus spent only in reading. I was not particular about food. Whatever was available, I used to eat and thanked Allah, the Provider. I never stretched my hands before others for food and that I owe myself to none except Allah."

Imagine! How dedicated he was to gain knowledge and how much hardship he had to undergo. Of course the dividends of this devotion were plenty. He himself has told that he had read twenty thousand books. He was a tireless reader. If he found a new book, he was happy as if he found a treasure.

In this way Allama Ibn Jozi became a very great scholar. Twenty thousand persons embraced Islam at his hands and lakhs of people abstained from doing wrong deeds by

listening to his pulpit lectures (sermons).

Let Allah bestow strength to us to perform similar activities as were performed by Allama Ibn Jozi.

An Intelligent Boy

Iraq is a country in the Middle East. Euphratus (Farat) is a river of Iraq. Kufa is a city on the bank of the river Euphratus. Many eminent scholars were living in Kufa after a century from the demise of Prophet (pbuh). A very learned stranger came to Kufa who was a non-believer. He hated Islam and tried to create confusion among the minds of Muslims.

He put three questions before the scholars of Kufa, but the scholars could not answer him properly. This emboldened him. He made his daily routine to stand at a higher place in the market area and to boast that the Muslim scholars could not answer his questions. This saddened Muslims. Allah, the Almighty, sent an intelligent child to take off air from his baloon.

This teenage student was going on his way to school. He heard the non-believer boasting in the heart of the city. He stopped at the place and challenged the boaster : "I shall answer your questions." Hearing his claim, some passers by stopped and asked the student : "Dear young man, are you really going to answer his questions?"

"Insha Allah", (God Willing) he replied.

The non-believer put forth his first question : "Tell me what is your Allah doing at this hour?"

The student said : "Sir, the one who answers the question enjoys higher status than the one who puts the question. I will climb up the platform and will tell you what my Allah is doing at this hour."

The non-believer climbed down from the stage. The young student climbed up and then said in loud voice : "O men! Be witness! My Allah is degrading the status of a non-

believer and raising the rank of a Muslim child at this hour!"

The crowd applauded the young student exclaiming "Quite true, quite true!" The non-believer blushed. He was now standing at a lower level to the higher one occupied by the student. The young student said, "Tell me your second question."

The non-believer asked the second question: "Tell me, what existed before Allah?"

The student said: "Sir, please count down from nine."

Perplexed, the non-believer began counting: "Nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one!" And he stopped at that.

The student asked: "Why did you stop counting, Sir? Count down, count down one."

The non-believer replied: "There is no counting lower to one."

The student smilingly replied: "Sir, even Allah is one. How can there be anything earlier to Allah?"

The non-believer was taken aback. He wiped sweat from his forehead. The crowd was also astonished at the intelligence of the young boy! After a while, the student asked: "And Sir, your third question?"

The non-believer looked around and said: "In which direction is the face of Allah?"

For answering this question, the student asked for a candle. When the candle was brought, he lit the candle and asked the non-believer: "Tell me Sir, where is the face of the light?"

The non-believer answered: "All around."

The student again addressed the crowd: "O men who have gathered here, be witness, Allah is also light which has its face all around. He is looking in all directions and everything all around."

The non-believer could not speak. Lowering his head, he disappeared from the scene. All men became happy and

applauded the young student very much.

Do you know, who this young student was? He was none other than Hazrat Imam Abu Haneefa who was called as *Great Imam*, whom millions of Muslims respect and follow the Fiqh school of thought which he edited almost 14 centuries ago.

Let Allah show us the way to tread the path which these elders have laid down for us. Ameen!



Lesson - 19

Imam Abu Yusuf

If you ask an educated Muslim to name the great Imams, he would take the names of four Imams:

- 1) Imam Abu Haneefa .
- 2) Imam Malik .
- 3) Imam Shafaii and
- 4) Imam Ahmed Bin Hambal .

Among these four Imams, Hazrat Imam Abu Haneefa is referred as *Imam Aazam*—Great Imam. Two of his disciples have earned a name. One was Imam Muhammed and the other was Imam Abu Yusuf . If these two were not there, the world would not have known the knowledge and thought of Imam 'Azam'. Whatever these students learnt from *Imam Azam* was edited and explained with such a masterly and orderly manner that Imam Abu Haneefa became *Imam Azam*, the Great. The other great advantage of it is that it provide the easiest way of following the tenets and practices of Islam. This easiest system is referred as *Hanafi Fiqh*. This *Hanafi Fiqh* was edited by Imam Muhammed and Imam Abu Yusuf.

Both these disciples of *Imam Aazam* commanded high ranks. In fact when the news of great scholarship reached King Haroon Rasheed of Baghdad, he nominated him as the Chief Justice of the empire. He was respected highly by Haroon Rasheed. Imam Saheb would reprimand the King on his mistakes. The King kept quiet on such occasions and corrected himself. He would invite Imam to join him for food. One day Falooda made of Pista was brought to the table. When the king extended it to Imam, the Imam began to weep. The king asked the reason. Then the Imam told his childhood story thus :

"An old man resided in Kufa. His name was Ibrahim. Old Ibrahim used to toil the whole day. He was paid low because of his old age. His wife twisted cotton and supplemented the income of the house. The total income was not sufficient to feed the inmates of the house. However the situation was grave. Many a time they would miss meals either in the morning or in the evening.

The couple had a son, Yaqub by name. When Yaqub was in his 10th or 12th year, the father thought that he should make his son earn and help him to run the house.

When his proposal was brought to the notice of the mother, she took his son to a Dhobi and got her son employed there. But Yaqub did not like the job. He had a natural urge for study. He wanted to spread the teachings of the Prophet of Allah. So he wanted to learn first and then work for their propagation.

Yaqub would start from house (every morning) as if going for duty at Dhobi's house and instead of going to Dhobi, he would reach a school. This school was run by a very great scholar of Islamic Law. His name was Abu Haneefa. Hazrat Abu Haneefa was an authority in religious matters. The devoted Yaqub continued to take lessons from Imam Abu Haneefa. A month passed. At the end the parents asked their son to get the salary for the month. How could Yaqub bring the salary when he had not attended the Dhobi's shop even for a day. When the parents asked repeatedly he admitted that he was attending the school of Imam Abu Haneefa.

The mother was very angry. She took her son to the Imam at the school and said : "Sir, this is my son. I rear him warping the cotton. I had employed him at a Dhobi's shop. Instead of helping us he comes to you. What would he get from education? Ask him to take up some job and earn."

Imam Abu Haneefa listened to her patiently, smiled and said : "You leave this boy with me. You want to feed him

the dry withered bread but he wants to relish Falooda made of Pista oil."

It means the Imam wanted that her son should enjoy bigger achievements instead of petty things. She would not understand. She became more angry and she murmured and went away.

When the old woman returned to her house, Imam Azam took the complete responsibility of meeting all the needs of the boy's house. The Imam had large business which enjoyed the blessing of Allah. It was great relief for young and enthusiastic Yaqub. He devoted himself whole heartedly towards studies. Imam Azam had also developed a liking for the boy and taught him with devotion. The outcome was, Yaqub turned out to be a great scholar. Imam Azam trusted him so much that Yaqub was one of those students who earned the legacy of the school and the books from their great mentor. Yaqub had now become Abu Yusuf and the very same Abu Yusuf is partaking sharing food with you O, king and you have offered me Falooda of Pista oil.

"O King! The words of Imam Abu Haneefa are ringing in my ears which he had uttered to my revered mother. Today Allah has given me a chance to relish Falooda made out of Pista oil. How true was the prediction of Imam Azam. Let Allah award him special place in the heaven."

Imam Abu Yusuf stopped this narration. Haroon Rasheed was very much pleased to hear this simple yet great account of the earning heavenly joy. Whoever heard of this was equally pleased. Let Allah bestow such devotion and liking for getting educated and to develop such devotion to seeking knowledge. Ameen!



Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani

Shaikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani was famous for his piety. He is known as *Bade Peer*. He was really a great saint. He had full knowledge of Islam. His more commendable attribute was that he would present the principles of the religion in such a convincing way that everyone would readily understand and accept them. He served the religion in several ways. His native place was Geelan, but he went to Baghdad and sought knowledge from several great scholars. An incident of his childhood is very famous, which is as follows :

After completion of his early education in Geelan, he said to his mother : "O' mother, I would like to read more." His mother was a very good and pious lady. She was very glad to learn the desire of her son. She said : "If you want to study more you have to go to Baghdad." He was ready to go. While he was leaving for Baghdad his mother gave him forty golden coins (Asharfies) and said : "My dear son, I am leaving you for the sake of Allah. I do not know whether we will meet again or not. I advise you one thing. Always speak the truth. Whatever befalls you speak only the truth."

Abdul Qadir Jeelani promised his mother that he would never go against the advice, and bid her good bye (*Khuda Hafiz*) and joined the Caravan that was proceeding to Baghdad. The mother had stitched the forty gold coins in his dress.

On the way the Caravan was attacked and looted by the dacoits. A dacoit approached Shaikh Abdul Qadir and asked: "O, boy! do you possess anything?" He replied : "Yes, I have forty gold coins." The dacoit thought that boy was joking and departed. A second dacoit passed by and

enquired : "Boy! Do you have anything?" He gave the same reply : "Yes, I do possess forty *Asharfis*. This dacoit also took it as a joke and left the boy. Several dacoits experienced the same thing and the news reached the leader of the dacoits. He ordered to present the boy before him.

The dacoits took Shaikh to their commander. Who questioned : "Do you have anything with you boy?" Shaikh Abdul Qadir replied : "Yes, I have forty gold coins". "Where are they?" asked the commander.

"Here, concealed in my dress." He told. Having found the coins the leader of dacoits looked at the boy intently and then asked : "Boy, you know well that we are looting the Caravan. Then why did you reveal your possession?" Shaikh Abdul Qadir replied : "My mother had taken a promise from me to speak the truth. Then how can I tell a lie?"

This simple reply from a small boy stunned the dacoit's leader. He started crying, and said : "A boy keeps the promise he made with his mother even at the cost of his valuables and look at me! I had promised Allah and had accepted Him as my care taker, I had promised to follow His commandments. But what a pity! I have forgotten this promise for years and I am going against His will."

The commander of the dacoits wept, repenting his misdeeds and then ordered his team : "Return everything looted from the Caravan." The dacoits obeyed him and gave back the looted material to the respective owners. All of them followed their leader and turned into noble and holy persons.

All praise to Allah. It was the blessing of Allah that Abdul Qadir got such a noble mother and it was also His blessing that Abdul Qadir followed the good principles of Islam in action. Let Allah help us to tread the right path. Ameen!



Syed Ahmed Shaheed

One and half century ago, a pious person lived in our own country. His name was Syed Ahmed. He was born in Rai Bareli a town near Lucknow. Syed Ahmed was very eager to spread the message of Allah to one and all. He used to say "Islam did not come to remain bonded." His opinion was "unless and until the administration of the country does not come in the hands of pious believers in Allah there would not be real peace in life." This was the only reason that he began to struggle against the British Rule in the country. Syed Ahmed Shaheed laid down his life and attained martyrdom in the path of Allah. His childhood incidents are very interesting and faith promoting. Some incidents are given below :

In his childhood, Syed Ahmed was very fond of play and games. But he did not take part in harmful games. He played such games by which he could become brave and courageous. Kabaddi was his favourite game. His friends would join him in this game. He would form two teams and then order one team to attack the other. He would also take part in this game and took pleasure as if he was capturing forts and driving away the enemies. Sometimes he would organise Lashkar-e Islam and charged the other team blazoning with slogan of *Allah hu Akbar* (Allah is great).

Syed Saheb was equally very fond of wrestling. Every morning after sun rise he would devote one hour for exercise and wrestling. He was an expert swimmer also.

Right from his childhood he was interested in Jihad (striving for the cause of religion). Once when an occasion of Jihad arose, he ran for sword and horse. Holding the sword in his hand he went to his mother for seeking

permission. She was offering Namaz (prayer) then. As he waited there, his foster mother passed that way. She stopped Syed Ahmed and said : "My son, why are you trying to involve yourself and risking your life in this task?"

In the meantime the mother came and enquired about the matter. The noble lady listened everything and then said: "I love Ahmed more than you love him. I enjoy more rights over him than you. But this is not proper occasion to prevent him. Allow him to proceed." Then she addressed his son : "My son, hurry up, proceed, but see that you do not show your back. Otherwise I will never see you again."

Syed Ahmed was very happy and he proceeded on his mission. However in the meantime some farsighted men intervened and settled the matter amicably.

Allah blessed Syed Ahmed most, by bestowing understanding and benevolence. On the one hand he was bestowed by God with strength. He was fearless. Secondly he was having such a great mother who always encouraged him to take up and perform noble tasks. Let Almighty Allah shower his blessings on Syed Ahmed Shaheed and on his revered mother.



Moulana Maudoodi

Sayyid Abul 'Ala Maudoodi is popularly known as Maulana Maudoodi all over the world. He was a great scholar of present times. He had the mastery of sharing his knowledge with others in the most convincing and acceptable form. His writings appeal every sober and intelligent mind so much so that he turns a devotee. Maudoodi has written a large number of outstanding books that have earned great popularity. They have been translated in several languages of the world.

Allama Maudoodi spent his whole life in contemplating to establish the Islamic State. He was always ready to utilise, sacrifice and avail all his energies, means and intellect for this noble cause. He described his childhood incidents in a very interesting way. An extract is given below:

"I remember many things of my very early age. I still remember how I wondered when I first heard that the father of the father is Dada and the mother of the father is Dadi. I never believed that my father could be the son of a person. Neither could I imagine that my Abba was ever a child like me. After much questioning and inquiry I could realise that all persons who are now elderly and old were children at one time and that they had their fathers and mothers too."

As a child I never understood the meaning of 'Dad' and 'Ma' (Abba and Amma). I could not understand who these people were or from where have I arrived at their place. Of course I considered my father as the most great person and my mother as the best woman of the world!

The most enjoyable times for me were those when I fell sick or got injured. My parents would fear much and were disturbed. When I could see my anxious parents run here

and there on my falling sick or getting injured. For this mere enjoyment, sometimes I used to take dangerous risks. The restlessness caused in the hearts of my mother and father made me to realise that they were highly concerned about me. All these things made me to realise the difference between parents and others people.

My late father had trained me in an excellent manner. He used to speak in a very chaste language of the nobles of Delhi. He paid special attention to see that my language and accent do not get spoilt. Whenever I used a wrong word or mean idiom my father took notice of it and corrected me. Later I had the opportunity and good fortune of residing in many towns and cities of the country but no regional influence could affect the foundation of my childhood.

Before retiring to sleep I used to listen the stories of Prophets, Islamic history and History of India from my father. I still feel its beneficial effects on me.

My father did not allow me to play with children of bad behaviour. He would strive hard to correct me and discipline me.

Once I thrashed the child of a maid servant. My father called the child and asked him to thrash me in the same manner. I learnt that I must not raise my hand on anyone who is weaker to me. I have never forgotten this lesson in my life. My father used to take me to his friends often who were noble, pious and educated. Their company benefited me. I could cultivate good manners and ettiquate because of them.

My late father made arrangements for my early education at home alone. This was to save me from unhealthy manners of bad company and to preserve the diction of my language.

This arrangement helped me to a very great extent. Within a span of five to six years I could acquire what other students could acquire in eight to ten years. In my eleventh year when I joined the eighth standard, I superseded other

grown up students. I was the youngest among them all.

In the school I soon made the good and devoted students my friends. I respected all my teachers greatly. My teachers also liked me much.

I started writing articles and to participate in debates in the school itself. Here I felt that I do possess skills for utilising the powers of pen and mouth. The education in the school fascinated me so much that I fully devoted myself to studies to the extent that even before the commencement of long holidays I and a few of my friends would plan our daily meetings for joint study and for playing. However before I conclude, I must add that I could not become a good player.

